

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

To construct directories automatically in a group of terminals of a local area network, a given terminal that has just been connected broadcasts a message containing its name and address. Another terminal of the group decodes the broadcast message, extracts the name and address of the given terminal from the broadcast message in order to insert them in a directory, and transmits its name and its address in a response message containing the address of the given terminal. The given terminal decodes the response message, extracts the name and the address of the other terminal from the response message, and inserts them in a directory.